observations and of the calculations in this instance been placed at our command, my remarks would have been completely answered. In the case of Lord Wrottesley's Catalogue, to which the Medal of this Society was awarded, and in that of Groombridge's Catalogue, the printing of which was placed by the Admiralty under my superintendance, the original observations and the intermediate calculations were placed at the command of this Society; and the repeated references which already it has been found necessary to make to the latter manuscripts prove the propriety of this caution. In the instance of the Bedford Catalogue we have no such power of referring to the originals. Feeling these things, gentlemen, and impressed with a sense of the responsibility to you and to the world of science which is implied by my position in this chair, I deem it my duty to state to you, that I for one have hesitated in assenting to this award except in the hope that the manuscripts relating to these observations would at some time be placed in our hands. And I am fully persuaded that it is the general feeling of the Council that the reasons upon which this Medal is now presented are such as have never before been used to justify our awards, and are not likely to be used again. I trust that the value of the Medal will be greatly enhanced to Captain Smyth by this consideration. I trust that he will perceive that, where direct evidence was wanting, this Council have not refused to give to the world their most solemn assurance of the value of the Bedford Catalogue, relying only, until further security shall be given to them, upon their personal appreciation of the instrumental skill, the editorial care, and the general exactness and fidelity of the observer.

(*The President then, delivering the Medal to Captain Smyth, addressed him in the following terms*):—

Captain Smyth,—In the name of the Council of the Royal Astronomical Society, I present to you this Medal. And I beg leave to convey with it the expression of my own opinion that never was a Medal more worthily earned. Permit me, sir, at the same time to remark, that the character of the Council is most deeply pledged in this award, and that I trust that, at no distant period, it will be redeemed by such communication of the details of the observations as will enable the Council to refer other inquirers to publications that are within the reach of all for a sufficient justification of this judgment.

The Meeting then proceeded to the Election of the Council for the ensuing Year, when the following Fellows were elected, viz.

President: Captain W. H. Smyth, R.N. K.S.F. D.C.L. F.R.S. —*Vice-Presidents:* George Biddell Airy, Esq. M.A. F.R.S. Astronomer Royal; Samuel H. Christie, Esq. M.A. F.R.S.; Bryan Donkin, Esq. F.R.S.; Thomas Galloway, Esq. M.A. F.R.S.—

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Treasurer: George Bishop, Esq.:—*Secretaries:* Rev. Robert Main, M.A.; William Rutherford, Esq.—*Foreign Secretary:* Rev. Richard Sheepshanks, M.A. F.R.S.—*Council:* George Dollond, Esq. F.R.S.; Solomon M. Drach, Esq.; Lieut.-Col. George Everest, F.R.S.; Rev. George Fisher, M.A. F.R.S.; Manuel J. Johnson, Esq. M.A.; John Lee, Esq. LL.D. F.R.S.; Edward Riddle, Esq.; Richard W. Rothman, Esq.; Lieut. William S. Stratford, R.N. F.R.S.; The Right Hon. Lord Wrottesley, M.A. F.R.S.

James Joseph Sylvester, Esq. F.R.S.; John Glaisher, Esq. of the Observatory at Stone, near Aylesbury; William Dashwood Fane, Esq. of Old Square, Lincoln's Inn; John Hartnup, Esq. Director of the Observatory at Liverpool; and the Rev. William Reade, B.A. of Welby, near Grantham, were balloted for, and duly elected, Fellows of the Society.

The following communication, which contains a continuation of the observations of Mauvais' second Comet made at the Cape of Good Hope, has been received since the Meeting:—

Observations of Mauvais' second Comet made at the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope, under the direction of T. Maclear, Esq. Communicated by the Astronomer Royal.

Day of Observation.	Star of Comparison.	Cape Mean Time for R.A.	Difference of Right Ascension.	No. of Obs.	Cape Mean Time for Declination.	Difference of Declination.	No. of Obs.
1844.		h m s	m s		h m s	′ ″	
Nov. 10	(12)	14 59 4·5	−0 56·22	10	14 59 4·5	+17 52·2	10
	(12)	15 45 49·6	−0 59·90	12	15 45 49·6	+19 22·6	12
11	(13)	14 49 40·6	+1 12·60	8	14 49 40·6	− 5 24·1	8
15	(14)	14 58 57·4	+1 44·22	10	14 58 57·4	+29 20·3	10
	(14)	15 48 30·3	+1 39·44	8	15 48 30·3	+31 9·3	8
16	(15)	14 45 39·1	+2 59·71	6	14 45 39·1	+12 47·4	6
	(15)	15 32 45·7	+2 54·98	9	15 32 45·7	+14 32·1	9
19	(16)	14 11 56·1	+0 13·53	10	14 11 56·1	− 1 6·7	10
	(17)	15 9 33·7	−3 2·30	12	15 10 55·0	−23 51·3	11
21	(18)	14 33 32·6	−3 31·58	10	14 33 32·6	+18 21·6	10
	(18)	15 38 36·8	−3 40·87	10	15 38 36·8	+21 14·3	10
24	(19)	14 52 58·3	+0 53·79	12	14 52 58·3	+12 38·0	12
25	(20)	14 33 58·9	−1 16·61	5	14 33 58·9	−20 7·9	5
	(20)	15 5 12·6	−1 21·31	6	15 5 12·6	−18 41·8	6
	(20)	15 36 19·5	−1 26·64	6	15 36 19·5	−17 17·2	6
26	(21)	15 15 56·3	−1 3·29	9	15 15 56·3	−13 38·8	9
	(22)	15 52 53·3	+2 17·43	5	15 52 53·3	+ 7 21·9	5

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The sign + denotes the comet's right ascension or declination to be greater than the star's; the sign — the contrary.

The observations were made with Dollond's 46-in. achromatic telescope and position-wire micrometer having two moveable wires (spider lines), and one fixed at right angles to them.

The preceding observations are not corrected for the effects of refraction and parallax.

Approximate Places of the Stars of Comparison.

Star.	Mag.	Approximate Right Ascension.	Approximate Declination.	Remarks.
		h m s	° ′	
(13)	8·9	12 14 35	−33 8	
(14)	7·8	12 5 47	35 52	
(15)	7	12 2 37	37 0	
(16)	9	11 57 43	39 57	
(17)	6	12 0 54	40 22	No. 6471 of the Madras General Catalogue.
(18)	6	11 55 39	41 34	No. 6430 of the Madras General Catalogue.
(19)	8	11 40 56	44 43·5	
(20)	8·9	11 39 19	46 18	
(21)	7·8	11 34 44	47 18·8	
(22)	6·7	11 31 17	−46 59·6	

Note.—In the former list of observations the differences of declination made on November 10 were not corrected for the index error of the micrometer. The observations are repeated above, with the proper correction.

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